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DE RUEHNM #0029 0140954  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
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FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5570  
INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE  
RHMFISS/HQ USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE

UNCLAS NIAMEY 000029

DEPT FOR AF/W AND AF/RSA  
USAID FOR AFR/W  
ACCRA ALSO FOR USAID/WA  
PARIS FOR AFRICA WATCHER

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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: Niger: Government of Niger Position in Inter-Nigerien  
Political Dialogue

Ref: a) 09 Niamey 1005, b) 09 Niamey 1025

¶1. As the Inter-Nigerien Political Dialogue (ref A) resumed on January 12 in Niamey, private newspaper "L'Enqueteur" printed a statement from the Popular Movement for the Restoration of the Republic (MPRR), a pro-Government of Niger (GON) political party and civil society network, offering the MPRR's position going into the talks, as provided to ECOWAS Mediator retired general and former Nigerian head of State Abdusalami Abubakar. The GON position is as follows:

(Begin text)

The Popular Movement for the Restoration of the republic makes the following proposals:

-- Participation of the Opposition in the administration of the State;

--Modification of key texts: the Electoral Code; the Charter of Political Parties; the Status of the Opposition, and the National Council for Political Dialogue;

-- Calendar for Elections: Departmental and Regional to be conducted in 2010. Setting up the High Commission for Territorial Collectivities (HCCT), the Economic, Social, and Cultural Commission (CESOC); and the Senate in 2010. Presidential elections in 2012. Legislative elections in 2014. Municipal elections in 2015.

(End text)

¶2. Comment: The MPRR's proposals vary dramatically from that of the political Opposition, which are discussed in ref B. While the second MPRR proposal would probably be acceptable to the Opposition, the third would likely be rejected outright, as it would further entrench what it sees as an illegal 6th republic. On the other hand, the first proposal, inclusion of the Opposition in administration of the State, offers some possibilities, although so far the Opposition has not shown interest in gaining seats in the Cabinet, National Assembly, Senate, or Commissions. Regrettably, there are no indications so far that the resumed dialogue will bear any fruit.

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